

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Currently amended) A pacemaker housing comprising:

a metallic housing enclosure;

a connector arrangement adapted to receive a contact plug of an electrode lead, said connector arrangement comprising a tubular member disposed inside said housing and having a first end and a second end opposite said first end, said first end of said tubular member being attached, by an attachment selected from the group consisting of a weld and bond, to an opening in a wall of said housing, and said second end of said tubular member being closed;

said tubular member being formed by a tube comprised of a metal attachable to said metal housing enclosure by said attachment, said tube having a length and being ~~structurally intact~~ continuous along an entirety of said length;

a plurality of interior elements adapted for mechanical and electrical contact with said contact plug; and

an insulating plug disposed in an interior of said tube and having said interior elements mounted therein, said insulating plug being coaxial with said tube and holding said interior elements at respective positions for producing said mechanical and electrical contact with said contact plug.

11. (Previously added) A pacemaker housing as claimed in claim 10 wherein said insulating plug closes said second end of said tubular member with said insulating plug fitting into said tube, and wherein said plug is comprised of ceramic material and is attached to said tube by an attachment technique selected from the group consisting of soldering and bonding.

12. (Previously added) A pacemaker housing as claimed in claim 11 wherein said housing enclosure has a housing interior, and further comprising a metallic tubular sleeve embedded in said ceramic plug and having an end

projecting from said ceramic plug exposing an exterior contact surface for providing electrical contact with said housing interior, and said sleeve having an opposite end which is exposed in an interior of said tubular member to produce an inner contact surface adapted for electrical and mechanical contact with said contact plug.

13. (Previously added) A pacemaker housing as claimed in claim 11 wherein said housing enclosure has an interior, and further comprising a metallic plug embedded in said ceramic plug, said metallic plug having an outer end projecting from said ceramic plug to provide an exterior contact surface for electrical contact with said interior of said housing.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Currently amended) A pacemaker housing as claimed in claim 13 wherein said metallic plug has an inner end opposite to said outer end with a bore therein in communication with an interior of said ceramic plug, and adapted to receive and electrically contact said contact plug.

15. (Previously added) A pacemaker housing as claimed in claim 11 wherein said housing enclosure has an interior, and wherein said ceramic plug has a contact ring therein having an interior surface adapted for making electrical contact with said contact plug, and a contact surface, and wherein said metal tube has a lateral opening therein exposing said contact surface for establishing electrical contact to said interior of said housing.

16. (Previously added) A pacemaker housing as claimed in claim 15 wherein said contact ring comprises a metal ring attached to said ceramic plug by an attachment technique selected from molding and bonding, and wherein said ceramic plug has an exterior with an opening therein in registration with said lateral opening in said metal tube allowing access to said ring from an exterior of said tube.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows

17. (Currently amended) A pacemaker housing as claimed in claim ~~17~~ 16 wherein said metal ring has an interior that is free of said ceramic forming a peripheral groove in an interior of said ring allowing access to said ring from said interior of said metal tube.